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Simmons, William
[Philadelphia, PA]
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The Naval Operations of the Civil War

A POPULAR AND INTERESTING LECTURE

By Comrade William Simmons

Late U. S. Navy, Past Commander National Association of Naval Veterans. Farragut Veteran Association, of Philadelphia, and Naval Post, No. 400, Dep't. of Penna. G. A. R.

THE FOLLOWING PRESS NOTICES OF THIS LECTURE ARE SUBMITTED

From The Providence, Rhode Island, Journal.

NAVAL VETERANS MEETING IN BLACKSTONE HALL LAST NIGHT.

William Simmons of Philadelphia, Lectured on "The Naval Operations of the War."

"Boson" Ford and "Bosun" mates, Jack Tracy and Ed. Beasley, piped all hands to muster on the quarter deck of Blackstone Hall last evening, shortly after eight bells. A number of members of the Providence Farragut Association of Naval Veterans responded to the call, among whom were Commander William Place, of Johnston, Lieut. Commander Thomas D. Topliff, Surgeon L. Traver, Paymaster Edward P. Springer of Johnston, Senator Samuel E. Groves of Johnston, and Quincey A. Hooper of Providence. The Hall was decorated with red, white and blue, and a portrait of Admiral Farragut looked down from the gallery. While the audience was waiting for Shipmate William Simmons of Philadelphia, to tell it about the naval operations of the War of the Rebellion, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Spinning filled the air with inspiring strains from the organ. Commander Place introduced Mr. Simmons who treated his listeners for over an hour with a rapid story of his own experience, and the heroic devotion of his shipmates. When he had finished, Prof. Alonzo Williams, who was called to the platform, said there was nothing left for the army to claim, and he was glad he could boast of having had a connection with the naval forces. Mr. Simmons described the operations of the privateers, particularly that of the Sumter, commanded by Capt. Semmes, which was chased across the Atlantic, into the harbor of Gibraltar, and there blockaded until abandoned. The part taken in the war by the Alabama was also shown. Damage to the amount of over seventeen million dollars was done by the privateers, of which the Alabama's share is about \$6,500,000. The speaker concluded his lecture by a series of perorations on the dead and living comrades, and the flag for which they fought. Prof. Alonzo Williams added a short address, and then all hands were piped down, and the gathering dispersed. Previous to the meeting the lecturer was banqueted at the residence of Surgeon L. Traver, 203 High street.

From the West Chester, Pa., Village Record.

SHIPMATE WM. SIMMONS'S LECTURE

Wednesday evening Wm. Simmons, of Philadelphia, who perhaps saw as much hard fighting as any one in the United States Navy during the late rebellion, gave a very interesting lecture in Gen. Geo. A. McCall Post Room, in the post office building, West Chester, under the auspices of the Encampment No. 25, Union Veteran Legion. William S. Underwood on behalf of the Union Veteran Legion, introduced the speaker Mr. Simmons, of Philadelphia, who is originally from Chester county. He said: "I have nothing to say about the army as it is abundantly able to take care of itself, but I am here to say that the army would never have succeeded as well as it did had it not been for the valuable assistance rendered it by the navy." The speaker closed by a glowing tribute to the soldiers, the sailors and the American flag. The members of the Women's

Relief Corps, No. 1, were in attendance, besides members of McCall Post, No. 31, G. A. R., and members of the Union Veteran Legion, with their friends. The lecture was brim full of incidents and events during the rebellion in the United States Navy. It is hoped that Mr. Simmons may return to West Chester, and upon a more favorable evening.

From The Philadelphia Press.

UNITED SERVICE CLUB MEETING

A meeting of the United Service Club was held last evening at their rooms, 1433 Chestnut street, to hear Mr. William Simmons on "The Naval Operations of the War." Mr. Simmons delivered an interesting resume of the services of the Potomac Flotilla squadron in saving the national capital, and described the taking of Fort Fisher and the capture of New Orleans, at which he was present. Among the distinguished guests present, were General R. E. Patterson, president of the club; Captain McCallum, United States marines; Captain Potter, U. S. N.; Major H. E. Smith, Captain H. B. Seeley, U. S. N.; Paymaster W. C. Cook, J. A. Kaiser, U. S. N.; Clarke Fisher, U. S. N.; Captain West, Colonel George D. Bernard, Dr. Robert B. Cruice, Fred Schober, U. S. N.; Captain John H. Weeks, Paymaster Charles Burns, Paymaster W. W. Godwin, Colonel Cassells, of Washington, D. C.; Colonel Isaah Price, and many others.

From The Baltimore American,

OPERATIONS OF THE NAVY DURING THE WAR

Mr. Simmons, of Philadelphia, Commander of the National Association of Naval Veterans of the United States, lectured last night at Harris's Academy of Music Concert Hall, under the auspices of the Naval Veteran Association of Maryland, upon "The Operations of Our Navy During the Late War," the occasion being the anniversary of the passage of the forts at the mouth of Mississippi by Farragut. Captain Simmons in a rapid and impassioned manner reviewed in succession the parts played by the various squadrons of the navy, eliciting considerable applause from the audience and the members of the Maryland Association of Veterans, who occupied the stage in full naval uniform. The Maryland association has made remarkable progress under the direction of Commodore Saville.

From The Wilmington, Del., Evening Journal,

The open camp fire to be held in the old Court House on Saturday evening by the Captain Evan S. Watson Post, No. 5, G. A. R., promises to be a pleasant occasion. William Simmons of Philadelphia, national president of the Naval Veterans' Association, will be the orator of the evening, and addresses will be made by the officers of the department of Delaware. The local veterans will act as ushers in full uniform, and everybody is cordially invited.

Headquarters Brandywine Post, No. 54, Dept. Penna. G. A. R.

COATESVILLE, Pa., February 10, 1899.

At a regular meeting of the Post, held on the above date, the following resolutions was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Post are due and are hereby tendered to Comrader William Simmons, Past Commander of the Naval Post, 400, G. A. R., for his instructive and entertaining lecture on the Navy in the Civil War, delivered on January 27, 1899, for the benefit of the Charity Fund of this Post. D. F. Bently, Commander, Jacob W. Heck, Adjutant.

Address

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